

Session 2: The GLBTS Looking Forward The Sound Management of New Substances of Concern to the Great Lakes

As discussed in the previous session, the ongoing implementation of Annex 12 activities (i.e., Great Lakes Surveillance), including national screening and categorization efforts, Great Lakes monitoring, health and toxicology studies, etc, may lead us to the challenge of new substances of concern in the Great Lakes basin.

Questions

- Under its current mandate, what added value can the beyond compliance pollution prevention efforts of the GLBTS program continue to bring toward mitigating new chemical threats to the basin – in cooperation with and/or as a supplement to national chemical management programs and initiatives?
- What value added might the GLBTS provide in serving as the Great Lakes region link to national chemical management efforts on both sides of the border?
- Does our current program structure lend itself to providing innovative solutions for new Great Lakes Basin chemical threats? Why or why not?

A second thing that we would like to accomplish in this session is the exploration of potential alternative approaches to substance management, where the GLBTS might play a more effective role in contributing to the sound management of chemicals in the Basin.

Questions

- We would like to consider the pros and cons of the following management approaches, and the potential implications of these approaches to the current governance structure (setting challenge goals, analytical framework, workgroup structure, etc.):
 - Single Substance (Status Quo)
 - Sectoral Approach
 - Family of Substances Approach
 - Combination of Approaches (tailored to substance)
 - Any others that we may not have thought of?
- Based on this discussion, what are your recommendations about how the GLBTS can provide the most value added to the sound management of chemicals in the Great Lakes Basin?